weather conditions in different parts of the country. However, the agriculture sector has been maintaining a long term growth rate over the yeras.

(c) To accelerate the growth in agriculture sector, the Government is implementing various commodity specific development programmes relating to cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, jute, horticulture crops, livestock etc. Besides, the Government is providing price and market support to the farmers as well as expanding the network of irrigation facilities to more areas etc. In the National Agenda for Governance, the Government has set the priorities for doubling food production in next 10 years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

Nuclear Technology to Solve Water Scarcity Problem

2672. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA MAHATA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have developed nuclear technology which can derive potable water from the sea;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make use of the technology to check water scarcity problems in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has successfully developed technologies of Multi Stage Flash (MFS) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) for desalination of seawater. The MSF and RO pilot plants set up at BARC were operated to study operational parameters. BARC has designed a 6300 m^3/d combined MSF-RO desalination plant being set up at the Madras Atomic Power station (MAPS), Kalpakkam. The hybrid concept has a number of innovative features aiming towards safe and economic production of fresh water from seawater. The palnt will use small amounts of low pressure steam, seawater and electrical power from MAPS. The fresh water produced from the desalination plant will augment the the water resources at the complex for future needs apart from economic production of process water for MAPS. The plant will provide useful indigenous experience for setting up large size desalination plants in future for conversion of seawater into fresh water to meet the ever increasing demand of water in the coastal water scarce areas. Further under the programme for the development of water resources in Rajasthan, a reverse osmosis plant was designed by BARC and was fabricated and installed under BARC supervision at Sheelgaon village in Barmer district which is producting 30 m^3/d fresh potable water from highly brackish water source.

Uranium Deposits in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

2673. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether rich deposits of Uranium have been found in Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh and at Gulbarga in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional atomic power proposed to be generated from the newly found Uranium deposits?